IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-9, 11, 17-27, and 29 without prejudice or disclaimer as to the subject matter contained therein.

Please add new claims 35-38 and amend the claims as shown in the following claims listing.

Claims 1-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a first redundant source of power adapted to provide power to a first split path; and

a second redundant source of power adapted to provide power to a second split path, wherein the first and second split paths are adapted to ~~transmit~~ convey signals corresponding to a first portion and a second portion of a message, respectively in parallel from a source to a destination.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the first redundant source of power comprises a first and a second power supply adapted to provide a first and a second portion of power to the first split path.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the second redundant source of power comprises a third and a fourth power supply adapted to provide a third and a fourth portion of power to the second split path.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising an environmental system monitoring demon (ESMD) adapted to detect malfunctions in at least one of the first, the second, the third and the fourth power supplies.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the ESMD is adapted to instruct the system control unit to transmit messages along the second split path if the first split path becomes substantially unable to transmit messages because the first and second power supplies become substantially unable to provide power to the first split path.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the ESMD is adapted to instruct the system control unit to transmit messages along the first split path if the second split path becomes substantially unable to transmit messages because the third and fourth power supplies become substantially unable to provide power to the second split path.

Claims 17-27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently amended) A method, comprising:

providing a first redundant source of power to a first split path;

providing a second redundant source of power to a second split path, wherein the first and the second split paths are adapted to ~~transmit~~ convey signals corresponding to a first portion and a second portion of a message, respectively, in parallel from a source to a destination; and

managing the first and the second redundant sources of power.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein providing a first redundant source of power comprises providing a first and a second portion of power from a first and a second power supply coupled to the first split path.

31. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein providing a second redundant source of power comprises providing a third and a fourth portion of power from a third and a fourth power supply coupled to the second split path.

32. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein managing the first and second redundant power supplies comprises determining if the first, second, third, and fourth power supplies are malfunctioning.

33. (Original) The method of claim 32, wherein managing further comprises instructing the system to transmit messages along the first split path if the second split path becomes substantially unable to transmit messages because the third and the fourth power supplies become substantially unable to provide power to the second split path.

34. (Original) The method of claim 33, wherein taking an action further comprises instructing the system to transmit messages along the second split path if the first split path becomes substantially unable to transmit messages because the first and second power supplies become substantially unable to provide power to the first split path.

35. (New) The apparatus as recited in claim 10, further comprising a power distribution network including first capacitor network comprising at least one capacitor coupled to the first split path and adapted to store the portion of power provided by the first power supply for a selected duration.

36. (New) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the power distribution network comprises a second capacitor network comprising at least one capacitor coupled to the first split path and adapted to store the portion of power provided by the second power supply for a selected duration.

37. (New) The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the first capacitor network and the second capacitor network are coupled in a current sharing design to substantially provide redundant power to the first split path, reducing the chance that a malfunction

in one power supply will introduce errors into signals transmitted along the first split path and compromise the function of the system.

38. (New) The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the first capacitor network and the second capacitor network are coupled at a switch that substantially provides redundant power to the first split path, reducing the chance that a malfunction in one power supply will introduce errors into signals transmitted along the first split path and compromise the function of the system.